IN THE CLAIMS:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:

a cyclodextrin-containing polymer,

a therapeutic agent, and

a complexing agent, comprising:

~~at least one functional group, and~~

at least one host/guest moiety at a terminus of the complexing agent that forms an inclusion complex with a host/guest moiety of said cyclodextrin-containing polymer, and ~~wherein the complexing agent comprises~~

at least one polymer portion that increases solubility and/or imparts stabilization relative to a composition of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer and therapeutic agent alone;~~, and~~

wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer, the therapeutic agent, and the complexing agent are separate molecules.

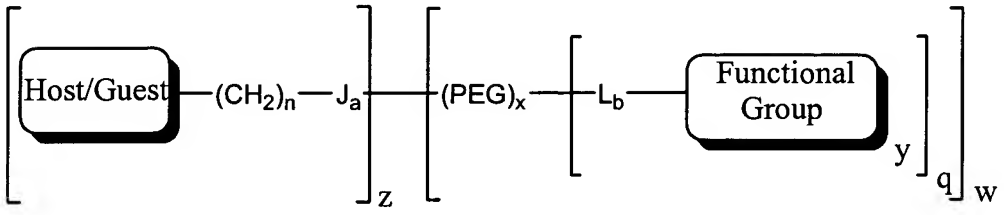
6. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from an antibiotic, a steroid, a polynucleotide, small molecule pharmaceutical, a virus, a plasmid, a peptide, a peptide fragment, a chelating agent, a biologically active macromolecule, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Original) A composition of claim 6, wherein said therapeutic agent is a polynucleotide.

8-10. (Cancelled)

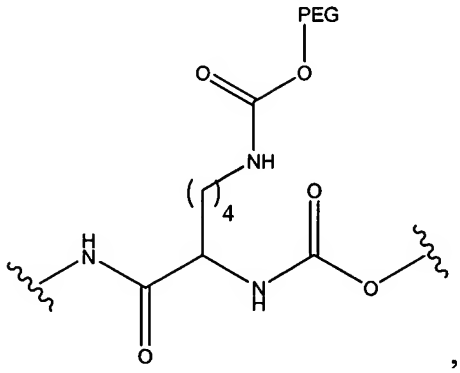
11. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein the host/guest of the complexing agent is selected from adamantyl, naphthyl, cholesterol, cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein the complexing agent is a compound of the formula:



wherein

J is –NH-, -C(=O)NH-$CH_2)_d$-, -NH-C(=O)-$(CH_2)_d$-, -CH_2SS-, -C(=O)O-$(CH_2)_e$-O-P(=O)(O-



$(CH_2)_e$-Y)O-, , a peptide or polypeptide residue, or -NH-(C=O)-CH(R^1)-NH-(C=O)-CH(R^1)-NH-;

Y is an additional host-guest functionality;

R^1 is –(CH_2)-CO_2H, an ester or salt thereof; or –$(CH_2)_a$-$CONH_2$;

PEG is –$O(CH_2CH_2O)_z$-, where z varies from 2 to 500;

L is H, -NH, -NH-(C=O)-$(CH_2)_e$-(C=O)-CH_2-, -$S(=O)_2$-HC=CH-, -SS-, -C(=O)O-, or a carbohydrate residue;

a is 0 or 1;

b is 0 or 1;

d ranges from 0 to 6;

e ranges from 1 to 6;

n ranges from 0 to 6;

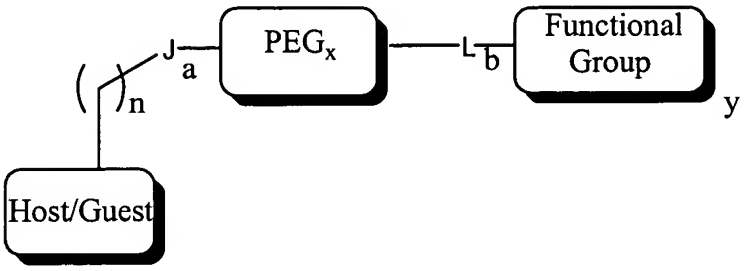
q ranges from 1 to 5;

w ranges from 1 to 5;

y is 1; and

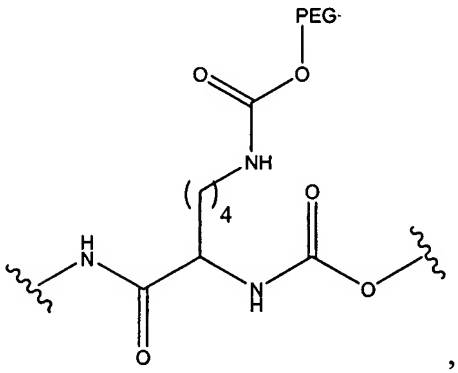
x is 0 or 1.

13. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein the complexing agent is a compound of the formula:



wherein

J is –NH-, -C(=O)NH-$CH_2)_d$-, -NH-C(=O)-$(CH_2)_d$-, -CH_2SS-, -C(=O)O-$(CH_2)_e$-O-P(=O)(O-



$(CH_2)_e$-Y)O-, , a peptide or polypeptide residue, or -NH-(C=O)-CH(R^1)-NH-(C=O)-CH(R^1)-NH-;

Y is an additional host-guest functionality;

R^1 is –(CH_2)-CO_2H, an ester or salt thereof; or –$(CH_2)_a$-$CONH_2$;

PEG is –$O(CH_2CH_2O)_z$-, where z varies from 2 to 500;

L is H, -NH, -NH-(C=O)-$(CH_2)_e$-(C=O)-CH_2-, -$S(=O)_2$-HC=CH-, -SS-, -C(=O)O-, or a carbohydrate residue;

a is 0 or 1;

b is 0 or 1;

d ranges from 0 to 6;

e ranges from 1 to 6;

n ranges from 0 to 6;

y is 1; and

x is 0 or 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 5, wherein ~~at least one functional group includes~~ the complexing agent further comprises a group selected from a ligand, a nuclear localization signal, an endosomal release peptide, an endosomal release polymer, or a membrane permeabilization agent.

15. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 5, wherein the polymer portion ~~at least one functional group includes a moiety that~~ increases the solubility of the composition under biological conditions relative to a composition of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer and therapeutic agent alone.

16. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 5, wherein the polymer portion ~~at least one functional group includes a moiety that~~ stabilizes the composition under biological conditions relative to a composition of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer and therapeutic agent alone.

17. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 5, wherein ~~at least one functional group includes~~ the complexing agent further comprises a therapeutic agent reversibly bound to the complexing agent.

18. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein the complexing agent further comprises a spacer group.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) A composition of claim 5, wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer comprises at least one guest moiety that forms an inclusion complex with at least one host moiety of the complexing agent.

21. (Withdrawn) A composition of claim 20, wherein at least one guest moiety is an adamantyl group and at least one host moiety is a cyclodextrin moiety.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein at least one polymer portion of the complexing agent comprises PEG or derivatives thereof.

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 24, wherein at least one polymer portion of the complexing agent comprises PEG or derivatives thereof.

27. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 5, wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer comprises one or more cyclodextrins in ~~the~~ side chains of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer.

28. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer comprises a linear cyclodextrin-containing polymer wherein cyclodextrin moieties are present in the backbone of the polymer.

29. (New) A composition of claim 5, wherein the polymer portion increases solubility and/or imparts stabilization is under biological conditions.

30. (New) A composition comprising:
a cyclodextrin-containing polymer,
a therapeutic agent, and
a complexing agent, comprising:
at least one functional group,
at least one host/guest moiety at a terminus of the complexing agent that forms an inclusion complex with a host/guest moiety of said cyclodextrin-containing polymer, and
at least one polymeric spacer group;
wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer, the therapeutic agent, and the complexing agent are separate molecules.

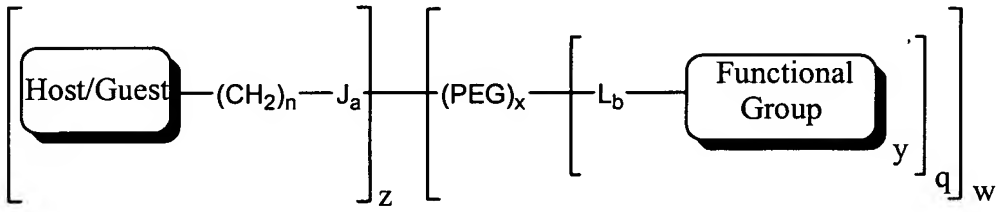
31. (New) A composition of claim 30, wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from an antibiotic, a steroid, a polynucleotide, small molecule pharmaceutical, a virus, a plasmid, a peptide, a peptide fragment, a chelating agent, a biologically active macromolecule, and mixtures thereof.

32. (New) A composition of claim 31, wherein said therapeutic agent is a polynucleotide.

33. (New) A composition of claim 30, wherein the host/guest of the complexing agent is selected from adamantyl, naphthyl, cholesterol, cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof.

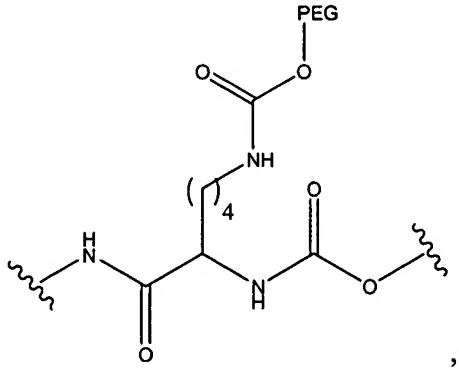
34. (New) A composition of claim 30, wherein at least one spacer group of the complexing agent comprises PEG or derivatives thereof.

35. (New) A composition of claim 34, wherein the complexing agent is a compound of the formula:



wherein

J is –NH-, -C(=O)NH-$CH_2)_d$-, -NH-C(=O)-$(CH_2)_d$-, -CH_2SS-, -C(=O)O-$(CH_2)_e$-O-P(=O)(O-



$(CH_2)_e$-Y)O-, , a peptide or polypeptide residue, or -NH-(C=O)-CH(R^1)-NH-(C=O)-CH(R^1)-NH-;

Y is an additional host-guest functionality;

R^1 is –(CH_2)-CO_2H, an ester or salt thereof; or –$(CH_2)_a$-$CONH_2$;

PEG is –$O(CH_2CH_2O)_z$-, where z varies from 2 to 500;

L is H, -NH, -NH-(C=O)-$(CH_2)_e$-(C=O)-CH_2-, -S(=O)$_2$-HC=CH-, -SS-, -C(=O)O-, or a carbohydrate residue;

a is 0 or 1;

b is 0 or 1;`

d ranges from 0 to 6;

e ranges from 1 to 6;

n ranges from 0 to 6;

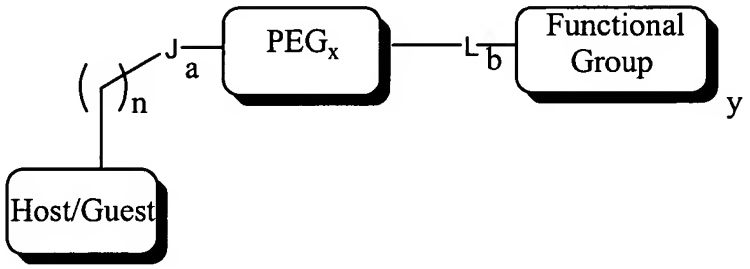
q ranges from 1 to 5;

w ranges from 1 to 5;

y is 1; and

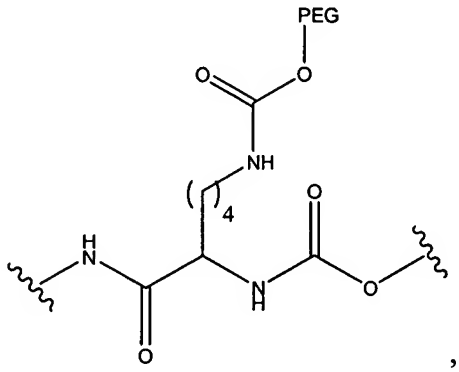
x is 1.

36. (New) A composition of claim 34, wherein the complexing agent is a compound of the formula:



wherein

J is –NH-, -C(=O)NH-$CH_2)_d$-, -NH-C(=O)-$(CH_2)_d$-, -CH_2SS-, -C(=O)O-$(CH_2)_e$-O-P(=O)(O-



$(CH_2)_e$-Y)O-, , a peptide or polypeptide residue, or -NH-(C=O)-CH(R^1)-NH-(C=O)-CH(R^1)-NH-;

Y is an additional host-guest functionality;

R^1 is $-(CH_2)-CO_2H$, an ester or salt thereof; or $-(CH_2)_a-CONH_2$;

PEG is $-O(CH_2CH_2O)_z-$, where z varies from 2 to 500;

L is H, -NH, $-NH-(C=O)-(CH_2)_e-(C=O)-CH_2-$, $-S(=O)_2-HC=CH-$, -SS-, -C(=O)O-, or a carbohydrate residue;

a is 0 or 1;

b is 0 or 1;

d ranges from 0 to 6;

e ranges from 1 to 6;

n ranges from 0 to 6;

y is 1; and

x is 1.

37. (New) A composition of claim 30, wherein at least one functional group includes a group selected from a ligand, a nuclear localization signal, an endosomal release peptide, an endosomal release polymer, or a membrane permeabilization agent.

38. (New) A composition of claim 30, wherein at least one functional group includes a moiety that increases the solubility of the composition under biological conditions relative to a composition of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer and therapeutic agent alone.

39. (New) A composition of claim 30, wherein at least one functional group includes a moiety that stabilizes the composition under biological conditions relative to a composition of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer and therapeutic agent alone.

40. (New) A composition of claim 30, wherein at least one functional group includes a therapeutic agent reversibly bound to the complexing agent.

41. (New) A composition of claim 30, wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer comprises one or more cyclodextrins in side chains of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer.

42. (New) A composition of claim 30, wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer comprises a linear cyclodextrin-containing polymer wherein cyclodextrin moieties are present in the backbone of the polymer.